

***Mimulus pulsiferae* Gray**
Pulsifer's monkey-flower
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G4?S2

General Description: A slender, 2-6 inch tall annual with small opposite leaves that taper to the base. Flowers are yellow with maroon dots. The corolla is 5/16 to 5/8 inch, generally 2-3 times as long as the calyx. The lower lip is only slightly greater than the upper lip. Flower stalks originate in the leaf bases; they are arching and upturned at maturity. Small glands can be found throughout the flower.

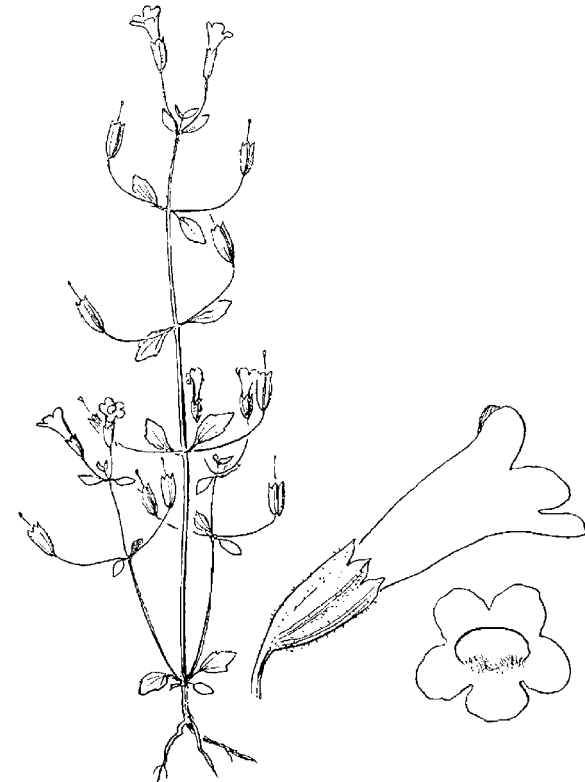
Identification Tips: The following combination of characteristics help distinguish this species from others in the genus: annual, yellow corollas that are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, the corolla being 2-3 times longer than the calyx, and leaf bases that are tapered.

Phenology: The species flowers in June and July.

Range: The species is scattered east of the Cascades in Oregon, Washington and California. In WA, it occurs in the Eastern Cascades and Columbia Basin physiographic provinces. It is currently known from Okanogan and Klickitat counties and historically known from Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima counties.

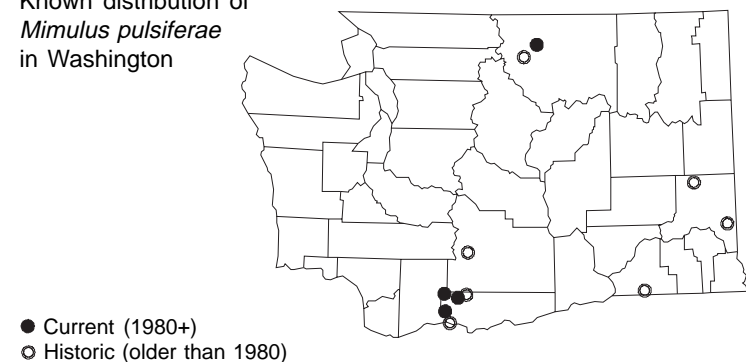
Habitat: The species occurs in seasonally moist, open areas, often in exposed mineral soil, from the valleys and foothills to mid-elevations in the mountains. It occurs in grass/forb dominated openings in ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests. Associated species include obscure cryptantha (*Cryptantha ambigua*), Howell's clusterlily (*Brodiaea howellii*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis* sp.), willowherb (*Epilobium* sp.), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), alum root (*Heuchera* sp.), death-camas (*Zigadenus venenosus*), and pussypaws (*Spraguea umbellata*).

Mimulus pulsiferae
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Known distribution of
Mimulus pulsiferae
in Washington



Mimulus pulsiferae

Pulsifer's monkey-flower



Reid Schuller



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Ecology: The species occupies seasonally wet or moist areas. As an annual it probably fluctuates yearly with changes in moisture availability. It may be vulnerable to competition from exotic annual species. Fire probably played a role historically in maintaining suitable habitat, at least in portions of its range.

State Status Comments: Although historically known from several counties in eastern WA, it is currently only known from a few sites in two counties.

Inventory Needs: Historic collection sites need to be revisited and systematically inventoried. As a small annual with a limited flowering time, it may be easily overlooked.

Threats and Management Concerns: Any ground disturbing activity that would alter the hydrology of the microsites or compact the ground would likely have negative impacts. Ground disturbance also typically leads to weed invasions. Weed control efforts within areas known to support this species should be undertaken in a manner compatible with this species.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.